## VIII

### DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1927–28.

### GRANT IX.

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move

'*that Government be granted an additional sum of Rs.* 55,000 *under* " *Grant IX –22. R.B. a. General Administration—Legislative bodies —Reserved—Provincial Legislative Councils* " *for meeting the expenditure on travelling allowance to Members of Legislative Council during the current year.*'

" The explanatory note makes it clear that the travelling allowances have been largely increased mainly on account of the work of the Select Committee on the Andhra University Bills in which connexion certain witnesses have to be examined in Madras, as also in connexion with the Jain Succession Bill. I beg to move that the grant be made."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 55,000 under 'Grant IX—22. R.B. a.—General Administration — Legislative bodies — Reserved — Provincial Legislative Councils' for the meeting the expenditure on travelling allowance to Members of the Legislative Council during the current year."

* Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" I request the hon. Mover of this motion to clear a doubt regarding this motion, and to tell me if, in spite of the fact that a number of hon. Members of this House are going to absent themselves from the Council until the end of this official year, it is necessary to pass this grant for Rs. 55,000."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" We do not know definitely, whether they are going to absent themselves, and if so, how long. In fact we have heard statements from newspapers and other places, that they may find it necessary to be here in Madras. The travelling allowance may not therefore be superfluous and we do not yet know what is going to happen."

The demand was put to the House and adopted and the grant made.

### GRANT X.

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move

'*that the Government be granted an additional appropriation of Rs.* 10,694 *in the current year under* " 47. *R. Miscellaneous—Special Commissions of Enquiry—Malabar Tenancy Committee* " *under* " *Grant X—General Administration—Secretariats—Reserved* " *to meet the expenditure connected with the Malabar Tenancy Committee.*'

" I may say in this connexion that the Malabar Tenancy Committee has now made its report, which I understand is unanimous. The Committee is now engaged in drafting the necessary Bill to be brought before this House. The explanatory note gives full details for the extra expenditure incurred. I move that the grant be made."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 10,694 in the current year under '47. R. Miscellaneous—Special Commissions of Enquiry—Malabar Tenancy Committee' under 'Grant X—General Administration—Secretariats—Reserved' to meet the expenditure connected with the Malabar Tenancy Committee."

23rd January 1928]

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I do not want to object, but may I know whether the hon. Law Member is in a position to supply the hon. Members with copies of the report which he said he has had from the Committee ?"

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, the President of this Committee informed me that the report had been prepared and it was unanimous. The actual copy of the report has not reached Government. As soon as it reaches Government due publicity will be given to it."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I hope there will be no necessity for the sittings of this Committee beyond 31st March ?"

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I think I can pledge myself to this: that the actual work of the Committee is over except for scrutinizing the provisions of the Bill which is now being drafted."

* Mr. J A. SALDANHA :—"Mr. President, I beg to rise to oppose this motion for this reason. It has been urged at least once before this Council that this Committee was entirely uncalled for and unjustified and this Council protested against the special grant of Rs. 30,000 under the circumstances which are quite unjustifiable and there was no legal justification under section 72-D of the Government of India Act. It has yet to be proved that 11-45 a.m. this Committee has justified its existence from the tenor of the evidence that was taken which was reported briefly in the papers. I do not see any new light was thrown by the evidence. The evidence produced was of a one-sided character generally. (The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: 'Question'.) I might point out that the questionnaire was sent to 800 persons or so, but only 240 sent in their replies or responded to the invitations. Of these, a large number, I understand about 60 or 70, were from the landowners, a large number were janmis and very few from the tenant class. There has been a good deal of shuffling on the other hand on the part of the members of the Committee. From the real peasantry and the tenants or their representatives there is none on the Committee. Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar refused to be on the Committee. Another member also representing the tenants refused and Government had at last to put in one member who is a nominated member and another who belonged to a commercial firm at Calicut. We have thus a very unrepresentative Committee to deal with this question and I am quite at a loss to see on the other hand why such an enormous expenditure has been incurred, that is, Rs. 30,000 and another Rs. 10,000, totalling to Rs. 40,000, for carrying out the work for which there is absolutely no necessity. I am sure that all that we shall read from this evidence has been read over and over again and heard over and over again in the past. It is the same state of affairs, the same points raised, and the same answers given. No fresh light has been thrown. No change has taken place in the condition of the tenure or the relations between the janmis and the tenants. I therefore consider that there has been no justification for the appointment of this Committee and that it ought not to have been appointed. The Committee again ought to have been careful and ought not to have spent more than Rs. 30,000 which was allotted under protest. The manner in which this Committee was going about doing their work was mysterious. I had to pass through Malabar rather frequently for the last one month and

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha] [23rd January 1928

a half in connexion with one committee or another held at Madras and every time I found some members of this Committee roaming about Malabar and going home to rest a while frequently. This desultory and half-hearted way of doing things is just explainable because they could not get proper witnesses. Why was such a committee appointed at all of gentlemen who could not give their whole-hearted service for a continuous period in the interests of the janmis and tenants of Malabar? I think, this idea of appointing committees for doing work in this way in a roaming fashion is altogether to be condemned. I have already more than once protested against any roaming commissions and this is another roaming commission which has done absolutely nothing substantial. When their report is out, we shall be able to show that they were not able to do anything or produce a report worth reading at all. For these reasons I formally protest against this grant as I have protested in the past."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have listened with interest to the remarks that have fallen from the hon. Member from South Kanara. I was wondering what he would have to say, but I realize that much of his speech was pitched in a key of ultra-pessimism and ultra-extravagance on account of the circumstance that he has perhaps to justify his existence on the seat opposite to me after the members of his party had left that seat."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, on a point of personal explanation. I really do not know why my sitting here should have anything to do with it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I shall explain. The hon. Member from his very conduct clearly shows the seat he should occupy. I have already requested him to go and occupy the seat allotted to him. I do not want to insist upon that, but the members of a particular party wanted to absent themselves from the general debate and I have anticipated the mentality of the hon. gentleman and have allotted an appropriate place for him and I request him to occupy that place."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" As to sitting, I would have to say . . ." (Cries of 'Order, order.')

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The President has got the right of allotting the seats and I have already allotted the seat which the hon. Member has to occupy."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I was greatly amused, Sir, by the speech of the hon. Member from South Kanara. He has read portions of the evidence. He has asked the House to vote against this grant because certain members of one party do not form members of that Committee, because certain persons did not give evidence before that Committee and only a certain number of landholders have given evidence before that Committee and a number of Government officials have given evidence before that Committee. I consider it was entirely uncalled for on the part of the hon. Member to have dogmatised as he did in first of all characterising the members of the committee as irresponsible and secondly saying that they aimlessly wandered over the whole country. They have had the evidence of 250 witnesses. They have taken considerable trouble

23rd January 1928] [Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

over their work and I understand that their report is unanimous, and, so far as I can see the strongest exponent of the other side of the case, Mr. Krishnan Nayar has not for the moment chosen to oppose it. I do not from that point of view say that it is not open to Mr. Krishnan Nayar to oppose this on other grounds. He may do so. But I would ask hon. Members of this House when they vote on this matter to wait until they see the report to see the work of that Committee. After all, it is presided over by a gentleman who has seen considerable service under Government, who has been a Diwan of an Indian State, of a Malabar State, who knows the conditions of Malabar land tenure. He has had as his colleagues men of various shades of opinion and various interests. It may be that one party, that is, the Congress party, has not been represented on the Committee. Is that a reason, therefore, for saying that the Committee is worthless? It may be that a certain number of persons have not given evidence before that Committee. Does that necessarily mean that we can judge in advance of the report? All that I say is that this House has before it no materials on which to judge that this particular report is useless or that these men have done their work in a wrong manner. The character and the antecedents of the President, the circumstance that after having examined 250 witnesses and a large number of documents they bring out a unanimous report, I submit, entitles this House to say 'Let us see when the work is completed.' It may be that the work on which many Members of this House have set their heart may be lightened and their task rendered easier by the work of this Committee, that their report may furnish materials for a just Bill. It may be that this House may improve on the Bill, but to say in advance that you should not give them the grant or ask that the work of this Committee should be stopped in the middle, after so much of it has been done and even the report stage has been completed, is to ask the House too much."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"May I have one information, Sir? The Law Member said that about 250 witnesses have been examined. Does my Friend mean that answers to questionnaire have been received from witnesses amounting to that number or does he really mean that so many witnesses as 200 or 250 have actually sat before the Committee and given their answers?"

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The total number of persons whose testimony has been before the Committee has been over 200."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I know from personal knowledge that the number of witnesses actually examined by the Committee does not come anywhere near that number of 200. It may be that answers to questionnaire may have been received. That is why I want that information from my Friend."

* The hon the PRESIDENT :—"The question is that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 10,694 in the current year under '47. R. Miscellaneous—Special Commissions of Enquiry—Malabar Tenancy Committee' under 'Grant X—General Administration—Secretaries—Reserved' to meet the expenditure connected with the Malabar Tenancy Committee."

The demand was put and adopted and the grant made.

[23rd January 1928

### GRANT XIII

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

'*that the Government be granted an additional appropriation of Rs.* 500 *in the current year under* '*Grant XIII—Administration of Justice—Reserved*" *for the pay of a Special Officer in the High Court to be appointed for the revision of Civil Rules of Practice and Circular Orders.*'

" As can be gleaned from the explanatory note, a District Munsif has been placed on special duty to complete the work of revision of the Civil Rules of Practice and Circular Orders. As lawyers know, the making up to date of the Civil Rules is of great importance in the daily practice and I move that the grant be made."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 500 in the current year under 'Grant XIII—Administration of Justice—Reserved' for the pay of Special Officer in the High Court to be appointed for the revision of Civil Rules of Practice and Circular Orders. I take that the House is ready for the question."

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I only want to suggest that the hon. Member should see that all the rules framed by the High Court in virtue of the Civil Procedure Code altering the schedules therein might also be consolidated and printed for the benefit of the Courts and the practitioners."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The hon. Member knows that some of them generally appear as appendices to the Civil Procedure Code. If the hon. Member wants all the rules made by the High Court be gathered together, I will place the suggestion before the hon. the High Court."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 500 in the current year under 'Grant XIII—Administration of Justice—Reserved' for the pay of Special Officer in the High Court to be appointed for the revision of Civil Rules of Practice and Circular Orders."

The demand was put and adopted and the grant made.

### GRANT XXVI.

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move

'*that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs.* 14,800 *under* "*Grant XXVI—Industries—Transferred* (35 *b. Industries—ii. District Engineering*) " *for the survey of sub-soil water-supply.*'

" Sir, this question has been long engaging the consideration of the Government and in fact as long ago as 1916 some attempt was made to connect the levels of the bore holes put down by the Industries Department. But with the means at the disposal of the Government much could not be done in that direction and unless an intensive work was carried on in a particular area no practical results could be inferred thereform. At the last Collectors' Conference it was suggested that an area of portion of a district may be selected for this purpose and the results watched after working it for some time.

23rd January 1928] [Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar]

To carry out that object, Sir, I now come before the Council for a supplementary demand and I take it that, when this work is completed, it will be of great use to people not only who want to sink wells for purposes of irrigation, but also to the several local bodies who may be able to provide good water-supply for drinking and other purposes. So, I hope, that this demand will be granted by the House."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 14,800 under 'Grant XXVI—Industries—Transferred—(35. b. Industries—ii. District Engineering)' for the survey of subsoil water-supply."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" With reference to the details of the grant, Sir, what is said in this note supplied to us is this. I refer to its concluding portion, page 2 : 'One water diviner on Rs. 150'. I wish to have further information about the qualification and the capacity of this water diviner. I have heard of persons who are reported to be clever in finding out places under which there is a supply of water. I myself had an occasion to try them in one or two cases and it was found in my personal experience that their prophecies or prognostications or statements were not even so valuable as the information often supplied to us by astrologers. I do not 12 know whether my hon. Friend will be in a position to give us some definite noon. information on which we can rely with reference to the capacity of this water diviner. The other items which go to make up this grant are pay of peon, pay of mechanic, travelling allowance, etc. The note says that power drills are to be used for making the experiment, but I find no provision for oil or firewood for generating the power necessary for the drills. Without fuel the drills cannot be worked. I had occasion to use a power drill lent to me by the Industries department. I had to pay for its transport and find the necessary materials for working it. It cost me about 22 rupees per day. Altogether I spent about Rs. 2,000 on it although I had no benefit whatever from it. I had to supply per day about three-fourths of a ton of firewood for its working. There is no provision here for the same. In this connexion I may mention that I was using another engine, also lent to me by the Industries department. For this engine I had to use oil which cost me about Rs. 6 or 7 per day. There is no provision made here for the cost of oil either. These engines will not move unless there is fuel. All these show that the details in the note have been prepared in a very perfunctory manner. Coolies are necessary for manipulating the engines, but they cannot move the engines. I do not know how my hon. Friend is justified in coming before the House with insufficient or no details with regard to a grant which he wants us to vote for."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I also join my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar in urging upon the hon. the Minister the necessity for making further enquiries regarding water diviners and placing the results thereof before us? There has been a good deal written on the subject recently in the papers in India as well as in England. Water divining is an art and it is well known that in India there is much superstition relating to it. In the West Coast there are certain persons credited with powers of discovering the exact places where a well ought to be dug to find water within an easy depth. I myself have personal experience of a case where a great scientist wanted to dig a well and, scoffing at this sort of superstition, commenced the work. In the end he did not find water and thereafter, yielding to the

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha] [23rd January 1928

so-called superstition of the place, consulted the proper Persian water diviner and dug a well at the place pointed out by him. Here he found water within a short depth. There are certain persons gifted with supernatural powers and it is no use scoffing at them. These people, by some mysterious power, are able to note the rush of water underneath the earth. The hon. Minister must have read some literature on the subject in which Government are urged to go into the subject. I am sure the hon. Minister must have enquired into it and I request him to tell us what action he is going to take in the matter.

"As for the other matter, viz., to what extent and in what manner the water diviners are going to find the level of water, I wish to say this. There is a system of boring I am aware of. I do not know to what extent it is proposed to be done under this demand and what additional hands are necessary for the purpose. Very little information is given. I am afraid the Development department has been acting in this matter in a half-hearted way. I hope the Government will be in a position to allot a much larger amount for these purposes. This is a matter which is as important to the West Coast as it is to the East Coast. In Udipi and other places water cannot be had for miles and miles around. It is difficult to make an estimate in matters of this kind, because it is impossible to say at what depth water can be found. In matters of this kind some scientific knowledge is necessary and it is the duty of the Government to furnish this knowledge to the public at large in the shape of bulletins so that the public may take advantage of it."

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I find that this proposal extends over 14 villages of the Bellary firka and costs about 1½ lakhs. If at the rate of 1½ lakhs for 14 villages the Government intend to spend money for the purpose of putting down boreholes, how long it will take to have a survey made in all the districts of the presidency and what ultimately it will cost are things to be considered. It will be a stupendous task and very large sums of money amounting to many crores will be required before this experiment as to the sub-soil survey can be completed. I want to know from the hon. Minister what exactly is the purpose he wants to serve by this sub-soil boring.

"Secondly, I should like to know from him what he means to do with these boreholes. The department goes and finds out at what depth water can be found. Is it going to leave it there or is it going to take further steps so that it may be possible for the villagers to draw water therefrom? Is it intended that these boreholes should be left there for anybody to be utilized for constructing a well or for irrigation purposes? If he means to develop each one of them into a regular well so that people of the locality may take water therefrom, it will be a good thing. But if he means merely to find out at what depth water can be found in particular localities and leave it there and tell the district board 'you dig the wells', then it will be so much money wasted. I submit that once this work is undertaken, we may go on with it and convert each borehole into a well so that in one firka at least we may have the satisfaction of having so many wells. Each borehole is estimated to cost about Rs. 350. Another Rs. 350 will probably make each one into a well. This aspect has to be carefully considered and in deciding to convert them into wells the Government should see where the wells should be dug and how near the villages or cheries they should be

23rd January 1928] [Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

dug. So that, if my hon. Friend's object is not merely to have boreholes but also to have wells at places where they would serve the actual needs of the people of the locality, I will vote for the demand; because it will be really a good thing to have a scheme of this kind for providing water to the poor people especially of the Ceded districts. If it is necessary to have the scheme revised so as to suit the proposals that I advocate, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to do so and formulate definite proposals in that direction and not merely ask for 1½ lakhs to have boreholes only."

* The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"I am much obliged to the hon. Member for his informing criticism. As regards my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar's observations, they have, I think, to some extent been answered by my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha. I am not going to take up the position of saying who is right and who is wrong. But this much I can say. In the Bombay presidency they have got a water diviner and he is paid a very high salary. There, his services are required to ascertain where water is likely to be had. In the present case, we shall be in a position to verify the experiments made by the water diviner because they will be followed by the borehole.

"Then, Sir, as regards the question whether separate provision is going to be made for fuel, I may assure the House that the present allotment will not be exceeded.

"As regards the other point raised by Mr Muniswami Nayudu, I may tell the House that I myself have considered the matter For example, in one of the boreholes water has been found at a depth of 50 feet and the pumping shows that 650 gallons of water can be had per hour. So that I think with Rs. 350 it will be possible to have a small well for the benefit of small villages.

"As regards the point whether people, ryots and tenants, may utilize these boreholes, I have been speaking with my hon. Colleague the Revenue Member and he says that if such boreholes are going to be used by ryots for irrigation purposes, he would sympathetically consider applications for loans for sinking wells. So that it is our object, not merely to make these holes there for mere experimental purposes and leave them, but to use them for giving water to the people wherever it can be done and afterwards to give the people such help as they ask for."

* Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—"Apart from installing pumping plants and other things?"

* The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"It all depends on the quantity of water that may be required. If the discharge is sufficient then a pump will be provided and if, on the other hand, it is necessary to accumulate the water available there, then a well will be dug."

* Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—"Does the hon. Minister hope to be able to dig a well in Bellary for Rs. 350?"

* The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"It all depends on the nature of the sub-soil."

The demand was put and adopted and the grant made.

[23rd January 1928

GRANT XXVIII.

12-15 p.m. * The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move

'*that the Government be granted an additional appropriation of Rs. 5,134 under "Grant XXVIII—Labour including Factories—Reserved" for the amelioration of the condition of the Todas of the Nilgiri district under the head "37 R. e. Miscellaneous Departments—Miscellaneous—Commissioner of Labour".*'

" As the explanatory note shows, the sum that is required is intended to improve the moral and economic condition of the Todas. The main items of work are—

(1) relieving the Todas of their chronic indebtedness with the aid of a co-operative society subsidised by Government ; and

(2) giving them facilities for the cultivation of potatoes and other vegetables as their present occupations are insufficient to enable them to earn their livelihood.

" I am sure, Sir, my hon. Friend, the Labour Commissioner, will see that the amount placed at his disposal is properly spent in the interests of the Todas."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 5,134 under 'Grant XXVIII—Labour including Factories—Reserved' for the amelioration of the condition of the Todas of the Nilgiri district under the head '37 R. e. Miscellaneous Departments—Miscellaneous – Commissioner of Labour'."

* Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" Mr. President, Sir, a great change has recently been brought out in the economic condition of the Todas. Many of them died during the outbreak of relapsing fever. The scheme now proposed has the support of a strong committee on the Nilgiris. Till recently this tribe would not take to cultivation and the Todas were mainly dependent for their livelihood on the milk of their buffaloes. These buffaloes have now so decreased in number that they are not able to subsist on their milk and have been forced to take to cultivation. In order to encourage them to cultivate their lands this grant of Rs. 5,000 is asked for. Unless some such help is given to the Todas, I am afraid their number will continue to diminish and ultimately the race will be exterminated. The Government also ordered an investigation into the cause of their decadence and sent out an expert from the Guindy Institute whose report showed that 50 per cent of the Todas were suffering from disease and that they should be given immediate treatment. The Committee on the Nilgiris has been co-operating with the Government in the task of ameliorating the condition of these people. The Todas have also to be relieved of their debts. If this grant is voted and if the Todas are given medical treatment, very soon they will, it is hoped, become a self-supporting race. With these brief remarks I strongly support this motion."

* Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" Sir, I heartily support this motion. In connexion with the motion moved by Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi, in regard to the dedication of girls to temples, I pointed out that the moral condition of the Todas needed improvement. I am glad that the Government have now taken up this question and are doing something for the amelioration of their

23rd January 1928] [Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai]

condition. I only want to point out that the special staff that is proposed to be appointed for this purpose should be composed of such persons as are conversant with the conditions under which these people are living. The conditions under which these people live are peculiar and is not what generally exists in most parts of the Presidency. It is proposed to give them facilities to grow potatoes and vegetables. But as they live very near jungles exposed to the ravages of porcupine and other wild beasts, I request the Government to take necessary steps to protect their crops from such ravages, so that the money now demanded may be well spent."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I take it that the House is ready to vote on this question. (After a pause)

" The question is that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 5,134 under 'Grant XXVIII - Labour including Factories—Reserved' for the amelioration of the condition of the Todas of the Nilgiri district under the head '37. R.e. Miscellaneous Departments—Miscellaneous—Commissioner of Labour'."

The demand was put to the House and adopted and the grant made.

### GRANT XXX.

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move

> '*that the Government be granted a sum of Rs.* 28,250 *under " Grant XXX—* 41. *a. Civil Works—Transferred—Buildings—Administration of Justice " on account of the purchase of a bungalow for the District and Sessions Judge, Kistna.*'

" The explanatory note gives the circumstances under which I have come before this House for this grant. It is absolutely necessary that the District Judge should be in occupation of a Government bungalow and not of a private one; of course the rent will be collected from the District Judge. The purchase and repair of this bungalow will cost much less than the construction of a new one."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 28,250 under 'Grant XXX—41 a. Civil Works—Transferred—Buildings—Administration of Justice' on account of the purchase of a bungalow for the District and Sessions Judge, Kistna. (After a pause) I take it that the House is ready for a vote."

The demand was put to the House and adopted and the grant made.

### GRANT XXXIV.

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move

> '*that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs.* 8,000 *under " Grant XXXIV—Agency tracts—Reserved " for the construction of temporary quarters for sixteen clerks and seven peons of the Koraput division at Koraput.*'

" The House may be aware that the Government have got a programme of works in the Agency. It is necessary that the engineering staff should be more conveniently situated than at the present locality where they live.

[Sir Norman Marjoribanks] [23rd January 1928

There is no accommodation at Koraput and it is proposed to put up some temporary quarters before permanent arrangements can be made. For that purpose, as this is the working season of the year Rs. 8,000 under 'Grant XXXIV—Agency tracts' is quite necessary."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question is that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 8,000 under 'Grant XXXIV—Agency tracts—Reserved', for the construction of temporary quarters for sixteen clerks and seven peons of the Koraput division at Koraput."

The demand was put to the House and adopted and the grant was made.

IX

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE AUDIT AND APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS FOR 1925-26.

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"Mr. President, I move that the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation accounts of the Government of Madras for 1925–26 be taken into consideration. I do not propose in making this motion to attempt further to summarise the document which is in the hands of Members of this House. I shall confine myself merely to stating, that if need be, I shall endeavour to answer any questions that may be raised by hon. Members with reference to that report. But perhaps, Sir, I may be permitted on this occasion to express to the committee who examined this report my thanks and appreciation for the thoroughness with which they have dealt with it, for the time and trouble which they have devoted to their task, and for the valuable suggestions which they have been able to place before the Government for consideration."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The report is for the consideration of the House."

12-30 p.m. * Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to make certain observations with reference to certain portions of this report. The first point I wish to mention is that the punishment that has been meted out to the officer whose conduct has been dealt with in the first six pages of the report is very inadequate. The name of the Superintendent of the jail and the name of the jail even are not mentioned perhaps for the reason that it will cause pain to the officer concerned. The report states that the contractor used 26,575 working days of convict labour. There was no agreement with the contractor and there was no tender also. The officer was asked to produce the tenders. He simply said that tenders had been made and that they had been accepted. But the tenders were not forthcoming. Then again, the rate for the materials supplied was in excess of the rates sanctioned by Government. It is well known that the rates of the Public Works Department are higher than the ordinary market rates but the rates paid by this particular officer were much higher even than the high rates of the Public Works Department. No account was kept of the fire-wood supplied by the Government. A tram line belonging to the Government was used and no deduction was made in the amount paid to the contractor on account of the use of this tram line. As a result of the 'gross carelessness' of this officer Government have incurred a loss of Rs. 20,700. Even after making deductions for so many things from the total loss, the net loss is Rs. 8,200. The Government however observe as follows in the end :